based on the recommendations made by Dinesh Goswami and Indrajit Gupta Committees; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) and (b) The Committee on Electoral Reforms (Dinesh Goswami Committee) had submitted its report in May, 1990. The then Government on the basis of its recommendations, had introduced following four bills in Rajya Sabha in May, 1990:—

1. The Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Conditions of Service) Bill, 1990 (since concerted into an Act of Parliament, Act No. 11 of 1991)
2. The Constitution (Seventieth Amendment) Bill, 1990
3. The Constitution (Seventy-First Amendment) Bill, 1990
4. The Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill, 1990

The Bills at serial No. 2, 3 and 4 were withdrawn in 1994 for introducing a more comprehensive bill on Electoral Reforms. The recommendations of the Committee on State Funding of Elections (Indrajit Gupta Committee) were discussed with the leaders of the political parties in the meeting held on 13.9.2001 and the Election and other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2002 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 19.03.2002.

Special courts under the Land Ceiling Act

1300. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state the action proposed to set up Special Courts to speed up cases under the Land Ceiling Act for distribution of excess land among the landless poor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): The Government of India has already repealed the Urban Land (Ceiling & Regulation) Act, 1976 through the Urban Land (C&R) Repeal Act, 1999 with effect from 11.1.1999. The Repeal Act is in force in the States of Haryana, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan and all the Union Territories (NCT of Delhi, Pondicherry & Chandigarh). The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 is still in force in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra and West Bengal.

Land acquired under the Act vests with the State Governments and they can dispose of such land, as per provisions contained in Section 23 of the Act.

As regards distribution of ceiling surplus agricultural land, the subject matter falls within the domain of the State Governments/U.T. Administrations.

Electronic Courts

1301. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electronic courts are going to be established in the Supreme Court very soon;

(b) if so, the details of such a proposal;

(c) the facilities that e-courts would provide to the clients;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Supreme Court is also thinking of allowing Lok Adalats to sit between 6.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. in the court building to dispose of the cases; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. On the direction of the then Chief Justice of India, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) submitted a project Report on the upgradation of the computer network of the Supreme Court in September, 2000.

NIC, in its Report, had suggested that the existing Hardware and Software at the Supreme Court required to be changed. Some new applications namely, Management Information System (MIS), Public Interface System and Electronic-Courts (E-Courts) are proposed to be introduced.

The Supreme Court of India, in consulation with NIC, has already procured necessary Computer Hardware and Software for upgrading the existing IT facilities. It has also been proposed to implement several Public Interface Applications such as: Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for providing case status information to the Public, Certified copies